

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, 15, 28-30, 34-37, 41-43, 55, and 56 are pending in the application with all of the pending claims except claims 55 and 56 amended herein and claims 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 14, 16-27, 31-33, and 38-40 canceled herein. Applicant expresses appreciation for the allowance of claims 55 and 56.

Claims 1-15 and 18-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Aarik. Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aarik in view of Sherman. Claims 31, 34, 36, 38, and 39-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aarik in view of Doering. Claims 1, 18, and 26 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U. S. Patent No. 6,355,561. Applicant requests reconsideration. Each of the rejected claims is either canceled herein or amended to depend from claim 55 or 56. Since claims 55 and 56 are allowed, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant herein establishes adequate reasons supporting allowance of claims 3, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, 15, 28-30, 34-37, 41-43, 55, and 56 and requests allowance of all pending claims in the next Office Action.


Applicant notes that an Information Disclosure Statement was previously filed July 17, 2003 prior to the mailing date of the Office Action. Applicant's research indicates that the IDS was received by the Office and is in the Office's file. Applicant requests consideration of the references cited therein and return of the Form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action with the Examiner's initials indicating such consideration. If the

Office is unable to locate the indicated documents, then Applicant would be pleased to provide an additional copy upon telephone request from the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 14 Nov 2003

By: _____


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